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Cc: []
Bcc: []
From: CN=Chris Sebastian/OU=R2/O=USEPA/C=US
Sent: Mon 2/27/2012 7:45:13 PM
Subject: letter from congressman pascrell to EPA re passaic river sediment / lyndhurst

hi cathy & michele -- just received this and thought i'd forward to you as lyndhurst is in congressman rothman's district.....

For Immediate Release
February 27, 2012

Contact: Paul Brubaker
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REP. PASCRELL CALLS UPON EPA TO REMOVE ALL CONTAMINATED SOIL FROM LYNDHURST PASSAIC RIVER MUD FLATS

Congressman also calls for continued soil testing in mud flats along Passaic River outside of the EPA's study area

PATERSON – Following reports of high levels of dioxin and PCBs in Passaic River mud flats within Riverside County Park in Lyndhurst, U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ) today called upon the Environmental Protection Agency to remove all contaminated mud from the area. Rep. Pascrell also urged the EPA to continue soil testing in mud flats that lie outside of the agency's 8-mile study area.

Rep. Pascrell's letter to Judith Enck, regional EPA Administrator, is attached and below:

February 27, 2012

The Honorable Judith Enck
Administrator, Region 2
Environmental Protection Agency
290 Broadway
New York, NY 10007-1866

Dear Administrator Enck:

I write to you today in regards to the discovery of extremely high levels of dioxin in the Passaic River in mud flats on the banks of Lyndhurst. This discovery is particularly disturbing in light of the fact that these are some of the highest dioxin levels found in the river, and that the mud flats are extremely close to Riverside County Park, where many families and children are often present.

As you know, I have long been an advocate for the cleanup of the Lower Passaic River, and have done everything in my power to assist the Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other federal agencies cut through the red tape and find a strategy to rehabilitate the river. I strongly support the concept that the polluters who are responsible for the contamination of the river must pay for its cleanup. I also applaud your efforts to complete the focused feasibility and overall studies, and take concrete steps, such as the Phase One removal project near the Diamond-Shamrock site.

However, we must ensure that we are doing everything in our power to protect communities along the entire stretch of the lower Passaic, including Lyndhurst, which lies outside the lower eight miles included in the focused feasibility study area. I was alarmed to learn that the EPA is currently considering only requiring the initial removal of 30,000 cubic yards of the most contaminated sediment in Lyndhurst. We

know that there are 120,000 total cubic yards of contaminated mud in the area, and because of this location's proximity to the park, and the possibility that flooding could move this contamination, I strongly urge you to look at the feasibility of removing all contaminated sediments at this stage. While I share your desire to move quickly on this initial removal action, and understand that there may be additional opportunities to remove contamination after the entire feasibility study is complete, the health and safety of the residents must be our top priority. Additionally, I strongly urge you to conduct further testing on other mud flats along the Passaic River, especially those sites not currently a part of the focused feasibility study, to determine if there have been a similar build ups of contaminated sediment.

I ask that you keep my office apprised of your efforts. We must ensure that the river is rehabilitated to the highest possible standards, so that families and communities can feel safe using the river and areas around it for recreation. We must also ensure that polluters are the ones who foot the bill, not the taxpayers of New Jersey.

Sincerely,

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress